

MINERS ASK WILSON FOR PAY INCREASE

Content That Cost of Living Justifies An Advance.

Because of the increased cost in living the miners have made urgent appeals to President Wilson to grant them an increase in wages after they were refused an increase by Federal Fuel Administrator Garfield.

Along these lines Frank J. Hayes, international president of the United Mine Workers, has had quite a little to say. In part he has said: "Cancellation of war orders, a reduced ship-building program, will form a basis for the shifting of labor, which will tend to disturb our industrial situation. Wages have gone up but they have not advanced proportionately to the increased cost of living. All authorities agree that there is no likelihood of prices declining for at least a year. But despite this prophecy councils of employers are now devising programs to batter wages down."

Continuing Mr. Hayes says: "Labor must accept no reductions. Having patriotically mined the coal, munitions, the munitions, built the ships and offered their sons that made possible the defeat of autocracy, labor will not accept as its reward a reduction in wages."

The telegram, which the United States Mine Workers sent to President Wilson was as follows:

Since last July the representatives of the United Mine Workers of America have been asking Dr. Garfield, Federal Fuel administrator, for an increase in mining prices for the miners of the United States. On October first Dr. Garfield permitted the anthracite mine workers to present their reasons for an advance in wages and later, on October fourteenth, he allowed them an increase, but on October twenty-fourth he denied an increase to the bituminous miners.

We regard this decision, affecting the bituminous miners of the United States, as unfair; therefore we appeal to you from the decision of Dr. Garfield. In appealing to you we ask only that the same treatment be accorded the bituminous miners of the United States as that given the anthracite mine workers and the employees of the shipbuilding industry. We ask for the privilege of presenting the claim of the bituminous miners for an increase in wages in the same way and in the same manner as that which Dr. Garfield authorized as affecting the anthracite mine workers. It is not sufficient when Dr. Garfield states that the bituminous mine workers are not entitled to an increase in mining prices. In making such a statement he denies to them the fundamental right of presenting facts and the reasons why they feel they are justified in seeking an increase in wages. Surely such an important body of our citizenship can not be denied the right to present their case to the proper authority.

The claim of the bituminous miners for an increase in wages is based upon an increase in the cost of living amounting to more than twenty per cent. during the last year, as shown by statistics gathered from reliable sources in mining communities throughout the United States. In addition, the bituminous mine workers are prepared to present additional facts to sustain their contention.

This appeal to you is ordered by the bona fide representatives of five hundred thousand bituminous miners, assembled in conference from every coal mining state in the Union. They deeply resent the treatment accorded the spokesmen of the miners of the United States by Federal Fuel Administrator Garfield, in that they were deprived of the opportunity of a proper hearing and the bituminous miners of the United States were denied an increase in wages commensurate at least with the increase in the cost of the necessities of life. If his decision is to stand it will jeopardize the policy of the Federal government in standardizing rates in essential war industries. Such a position is arbitrary, autocratic and unfair, and will destroy confidence in the plans and policies of the government to stabilize wages in industry.

We feel that the splendid record of the coal miners of the United States during all the period since our country

IN THE GREAT AMERICAN HOME



has been involved in war is of such a character as to commend this appeal to your favorable consideration. The miners have responded to every call our nation has made. At no time or period have they either slackened or failed.

In making this appeal to you we are but exercising the inherent right of groups of citizens within the republic to petition to the highest authority within the nation for the redress of grievances and the correction of wrongs. We ask for no other privilege than to be accorded our day in court, the right to present reasons to the proper authorities in support of the miners' claim for an increase in mining prices. The miners of America have confidence in you. Therefore we will wait your early and favorable consideration of this appeal. We will gladly come to Washington and meet with you at your convenience for the purpose of presenting the request of the bituminous miners and the reasons for an increase in wages.

FRANK J. HAYES, President.

JOHN L. LEWIS, Vice President.

WILLIAM GREEN, Secretary-Treasurer.

THE UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA.

In its contention for a raise of wages Local Union, 2,659, of Washoe, Mont., has prepared a list of comparative prices of 1918 with those of 1914. This they have sent to President Wilson and Fuel Administrator Garfield. While the list may not exactly apply to Fairmont prices they give food for thought along these lines, however. The list as printed in The United Mine Workers' Journal is as follows, the first price being that for 1914 and the second for 1918:

Laundry soap, 5c, 6½c; onions, pound, 2c, 5c; lard, pound, 15c, 32½c; bacon, pound, 25c, 55c; beans, pound, 10c, 17½c; corn meal, pound, 5c, 8½c;

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Flour, per 24 pounds, 90c, \$1.50; potatoes, per 100 pounds, 90c, \$2.50; cheese pound, 25c, 40c; canned corn, best grade, 15c, 22½c; tomatoes, large can, 15c, 25c; coffee, pound, 25c, 55c; can cream, 7c, 15c; butter, pound, 30c, 60c; bread, 16 ounces, 5c, 10c; corn flakes, 7½c, 15c; oatmeal, pound, 5c, 8½c; eggs, dozen, 25c, 55c; men's dress shoes, \$2.50 to \$3.50, \$6.50 to \$12.00; overalls, bib, 75c, \$2.25; overalls, plain, 50c, \$2.00; canvas gloves, 10c, 20c; work shirts, 75c, \$1.35; miner's cap, 30c, 50c; miner's tools, such as augers, thread bar, boxen, post, shovel, scraper, tamper and picks, \$12.00, \$37.50; miner's shovel, 75c, \$1.75; men's work shoes, \$2.00 to 5.00, \$6.50 to \$9.00; matches, 5c, 10c; miner's dinner pail, 90c, \$1.40; suit of clothes, \$18.00, \$35.50; ladies' dress shoes, \$3.00 to \$5.00, \$6.50 to \$15.00; rice, pound, 10c, 15c; sugar, pound, 6c, 12c; tobacco, pound, 65c, 95c; syrup, 5 pound can, 40c, 65c.

WHEELING'S WAR CHEST.

WHEELING, W. Va., Nov. 30.—The War Chest Drive, which was pulled off Nov. 11-18, taking advantage of the United War Work Campaign at that time, was for \$600,000 and there was \$450,000 secured, according to a statement from the Office of Howard Hazlett, the treasurer.

Evening Chat

Did you ever watch the eyes of a mute? Do you know very much about these afflicted people who so very often have mental faculties great indeed but who have, through unfortunate heredity or other cause, lost both voice and hearing? In the city we have several. I know one particular case where both parents, young people, are deaf and dumb; but the children of the marriage are above the average in brightness. They can also hear and speak. Today a tragedy occurred in the family and I found myself watching the eyes of the woman. Of what use was the tongue after all when such a world of depth and power of feeling grew slowly bigger and bigger in those lakes of fire?

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At Your Service

Austin T. Maunz.

usually grew frightened at all that was pictured there. First they grew wide, then pictured with each thought as it fell tumultuously upon the other. Then was pictured the ache of heart which could not escape through voice. There was no outlet through the comfort of sympathetic words. Some one might speak to her in the mute language, but the sound which plays so important a part on the senses, was gone forever. Never in all my experience have I witnessed such storm of unexpressed feeling as arose in that woman's eyes. Never again do I want to see it.

One of the worst effects upon domestic mores, constables and justices of the peace lies in the fact that sooner or later this class of people become so used to sickness, suffering and crime that it grows merely part of the day's events. There are two opposites of grief and sympathy—one is an ever developed sense of humor, the other a sickening brutality. I hardly know which is the more to be desired. Around the court house, one grows to look upon theft, fighting of various sorts, petty quarrels, and even serious misdemeanor as one vast joke. You learn to say: "Well, who's got into trouble today?" much as though you would ask: "Anybody got a pencil around here?" You learn to take the failings of humanity as casual, quite the thing! You talk about crime of all sorts and even murder much in the same way that you talk about the weather—it's bound to come, whether rainy or sunny, and that's all there is to it. At first it seems almost nauseating but after a while it grows just part of the day's work and not nearly so demoralizing as the dwelling on sordid happenings around the back gate, early in the morning while the housework stays undone!

After all, there is quite some connection between business in the court house and business at home. In the home, just one family's affairs are adjusted or re-adjusted, privately or publicly, depending on one's voice carrying qualities. In the court house, the whole county's troubles are patched and repatched. Just as one learns

to philosophize on family affairs, so workers in the court house learn to make the best of the worst of life. In order to keep any sweetness and sympathy at all, the sense of humor is over developed there. I've watched the same thing happen in the home. Looking at life as a joke, often covers many a tragic opinion of the matter. Getting down to a working basis is after all the first big lesson in satisfactory living.

There have only been thirteen weddings during the month of November in the county. What's wrong with

Cupid? Or is it too near Christmas still—while buying presents for the family may loom large and discouraging, think what a present as the soldiers come home. It is predicted that weddings will happen in "elegant sufficiency." Until then we'll have to get along with a few and far between, it seems during November count for all.

Normal School lecture course now on sale at Martin's Book Store \$2.00 for the season. Six great entertainments.—Adv.

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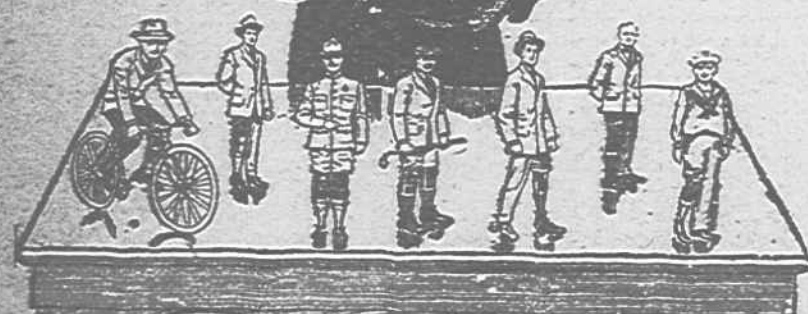
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